

1786
p. 9

BANQUET

TO THE

HON. SIMON CAMERON,

Given at the Jones' House, May 2d, 1862,

BY THE

PEOPLE OF HARRISBURG.

HARRISBURG:

PRINTED AT "TELEGRAPH" JOB OFFICE.

1862.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2009 with funding from
Friends of the Lincoln Financial Collection in Indiana

SPEECHES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

CAMERON BANQUET.

HARRISBURG, MAY 2, 1862.

Several weeks since a number of our leading citizens, personal friends of Hon. Simon Cameron, desiring to testify their appreciation of his numerous services and their esteem and regard for him as a man, citizen and neighbor, honored him with the tender of a public supper, previous to his leaving the country on the important mission to Russia. Owing, however, to numerous business engagements, his acceptance of this kind offer on the part of his friends was not indicated until the early part of last week, when the committee having charge of the matter at once commenced making arrangements, and the banquet came off at the Jones' House, in this city, on Friday evening, May 2nd.

THE INVITATION AND ITS ACCEPTANCE.

HARRISBURG, Pa., April 7, 1862.

Hon. SIMON CAMERON, *Dear Sir*:—The undersigned, your personal friends and acquaintances, not willing that you should leave the country on your important mission as Minister Plenipotentiary to Russia, without having received some manifestation of the high esteem with which they regard your integrity as a man, and the entire confidence they have in your great ability as a statesman, desire that you indicate some future occasion when it will be convenient for you to join your friends in partaking of a banquet. In thus tendering to you the honor of such an entertainment, we feel that we are obeying the expressed desire of a large portion of your fellow citizens who are not aware of this tender, but who will gladly

assemble around any board at which you may be the distinguished and honored guest.

You will please indicate the time most convenient for you to partake of such a banquet, in your early reply to this note.

Your friends,

WILLIAM BUEHLER,
A. J. JONES,
JNO. A. FISHER,
WM. DOCK,
GEO. BERGNER,
ROBERT A. LAMBERTON,
H. M. POLLOCK,
DAVID MCCORMICK,
ROBERT L. MUENCH,
F. K. BOAS,
CHARLES F. MUENCH,
WM. COLDER.

GEN. CAMERON'S REPLY.

LOCHIEL, May 1, 1862.

GENTLEMEN:—Your note of the 7th of April, inviting me to partake of a banquet, as a manifestation of the high esteem of my friends and fellow citizens, was duly received, but I have been unduly delayed in answering, owing to the preparations incident to my departure for Russia, the embarrassment of a prosecution growing out of the arrest of traitors while I was Secretary of War, and the necessity of my absence from home, in attendance on the President, to receive final instructions for the government of my embassy. These having been disposed of, I am now at leisure to acknowledge your very flattering note, and also to accept your very friendly invitation. It will afford me much pleasure to meet my

friends and fellow citizens to-morrow (Friday) evening, if that time will meet the preparations of your committee.

With a high regard for the members of the committee, individually, I am, gentlemen,

Yours, truly,

SIMON CAMERON.

To John A. Fisher, William Dock, William Buehler, George Bergner, E. M. Pollock, A. J. Jones, Wm. Colder, David McCormick, Robert A. Lamberton, F. K. Boas, Charles F. Muench, and other members of the committee.

THE COMPANY IN WAITING.

The citizens interested in the banquet commenced assembling in the large parlors of the Jones' House at an early hour on Friday evening. As the company arrived, they were ushered into those spacious rooms, where they were introduced to Gen. Cameron. During the intervals of the arrivals and the banquet it must have been gratifying to the distinguished guest of this occasion to receive the many warm expressions of personal regard then offered by those who had known him from boyhood through years of stern struggle, to the hour when he had fairly won some of the brightest honors and largest confidence of his countrymen. Whatever tribute may have been heretofore offered to Gen. Cameron in circles beyond this locality, where the compliments of men are generally controlled by their own hopes of interest or gain, those which he has ever secured in the circles of his own home and among the citizens of this city, have been of a character which prove that he has a hold on our people which no outside attacks can affect or destroy.

THE BANQUET HALL.

While the company, with its distinguished guest, were thus awaiting the hour for the banquet, we availed ourselves of the courtesies and privileges usually tendered to the reportorial corps, to visit the banquet hall. This, of course, was in the usual dining saloon of the hotel, which was handsomely decorated and arranged for the occasion, presenting a scene of the most beautiful description. The chandeliers pendant from the ceiling and brackets projecting from the walls flood the large hall with intense lustre, amid which the silver, china and glass ware of the tables, flashed with a brilliancy almost overpowering to the eye. The tables, of which there were two running the entire length of the hall, fairly groaned beneath the weight of choice edibles, prepared in a

manner that spoke volumes for the good taste and proficiency of Mr. David Hutchinson, to whom Col. Coverly entrusted this important part of the programme.

THE BANQUET.

About 8½ o'clock the doors of the banquet hall were thrown open, and the company, numbering about one hundred and fifty, with their distinguished guest, proceeded to occupy seats around the sumptuously furnished table.

His Honor, Wm. H. KEPNER, Mayor of the city, occupied the head of the principal table, flanked on the left by his honor Judge PEARSON, and on the right by the distinguished guest of the evening, Gen. CAMERON. Among the company, we noticed Hon. Thomas E. Cochran, Auditor General of the State, Wm. M. Kerr, Esq., Judge Murray, Wm. Colder, Maj. John Brady, Gen. E. C. Wilson, George Trullinger, W. O. Hickok, Dr. Geo. Bailey, Dr. A. Patterson, J. B. Rutherford, Wm. Buehler, Esq., Thomas C. Nicholson, of the Treasury Department, John A. Weir, Esq., Charles F. Muench, Samuel A. Power, of the Commissary General's Department, Cyrus J. Reese, David Fleming, Esq., County Treasurer J. L. Speel, A. J. Herr, Esq., E. M. Pollock, David Muma, Daniel Shellenberger, and a number of other leading men of the city, who vied with each other in their spoken and silent manifestations of regard for the honored guest of the occasion.

The supper was discussed with a hearty zest, showing that the company fully appreciated its merits. The bill of fare embraced all the choice delicacies of the season, divided off into several courses, intermingled with excellent wines, and terminating with a desert of incomparable richness.

THE TOAST OF THE EVENING AND THE SPEECHES.

After the cloth was removed, his honor Mayor Kepner announced the following toast:

SIMON CAMERON—A Pennsylvanian who has never forgotten his native State—an American who has always been faithful to his country and his countrymen. His fellow citizens delight to honor him.

The enthusiastic applause with which this sentiment was greeted having somewhat subsided,

General CAMERON said: Mr. Mayor and Fellow Citizens: I take it for granted that I am expected to say something in return for the compliment you have been so kind as to confer upon me, yet I cannot speak to you, my fellow citizens, in any cold or formal language. Since

I have come into this room all the thoughts of business and of duty which crowded upon my mind during the day have fled, leaving only the remembrance of the associations and friendships that I have experienced during the long years of my residence in this, my home. I remember that this day forty-five years ago I came to Harrisburg—a poor, delicate, sickly boy—without any reliance but on the overruling control of Providence and the reward which I had been taught to believe would always follow proper actions. The only countenance of those around me which I remember to have seen at that day, was that of my friend who sits beside me on the right, (Mr. C. F. Muench,) who was then a boy younger than myself, and whom I met the day after entering the town. He was an apprentice in a printing office here, to which I went to obtain employment, and which I left with a feeling such as can be experienced only by those who are willing to work, are without money in their purse, and are destitute of friends upon whom to rely, when told “we cannot employ you.” I can now remember the name of only one living housekeeper in the town at that time. I refer to Judge Hummel. I made the acquaintance of the honored gentleman at the same time that I became the recipient of his generous hospitality. The first place at which I stopped to rest my weary limbs after reaching the town, was beneath the shade of an old willow tree in front of his house. He came out and spoke kindly to me, inviting me into his home and we have been friends ever since. Sir, how the world has changed since then!—how has everything about me changed! A day or two after I saw my friend Muench I obtained employment. I immediately went to work with such a heart and will as never fail to win success. During the daytime I worked for my employer and at night I cultivated my mind. A few years of assiduous toil made me the possessor of a printing office. When other men slept I continued to toil, and felt certain that sooner or later I would feel equal, not alone in this world's goods but in the scale of merit and capacity with other men around me. Why, sir, it was no uncommon thing for me to retire at midnight and rise at four in the morning to pursue my daily avocation.

I have lived to see what was then a hamlet become the third city of the State. In my position as a newspaper journalist I necessarily came in contact with the political theories and important questions of the day and never failed to advocate what I conceived to be a wise and beneficial State policy in regard to a system of internal improvements. Since that day to the present time I may say that I have at least had something to do with every work of improvement connected with the progress of this city and State. The first efforts of my pen were directed in furtherance of the great policy of internal improvements which brought forth our canal system. I next labored for years to secure the erection of a railroad from

Harrisburg to Lancaster, though laughed at as a visionary boy who talked about carrying cars, wagons and freight on rails by steam. I am reminded here of an expression made at one of the meetings which we held in favor of that railroad project—(for at that time I was in the habit of persuading my friends to go around the country and convene meetings, by which means I might be enabled to talk to the people on my favorite theme of the desirability of railroad communication and its importance)—one of the auditors upon this occasion (the meeting being held at Elizabeth-town) was one known as Abraham Harnly, a very intelligent man, and one of the most active in that neighborhood. During the course of my remarks I had happened to say, “I have no doubt, gentleman, there are many of you present who will live to see the day when a man can eat his breakfast at Harrisburg, go to Philadelphia, (one hundred miles,) take his dinner, transact his business there, and return home to Harrisburg in time to go to bed, as usual, in the evening.” There was a simultaneous roar of laughter from the audience, which had hardly ceased when this old man very confidentially whispered in my ear, “Simon, I am glad you told them about going to Philadelphia and back again to Harrisburg in one day, because that will make them take the *sheers*, (shares,) *but you and I know all about that!*” [Laughter.] I leave you to judge, gentlemen, whether my prediction was verified. After having proved successful in my endeavors in behalf of the railroad from Harrisburg to Lancaster, I became engaged in a project to construct a road from here to Chambersburg; then again to Baltimore; then again to Sunbury, the place of my boyhood, and also to Reading; all of which, I am glad to state, are now prosperous and in most successful operation. I mention this gentlemen, not boastfully, but to show what may be accomplished by a determined will and a right purpose.

In responding to the sentiment of our worthy Mayor my intention, gentlemen, was simply to speak to you familiarly as friends and neighbors, without referring to my control of the War Department, over which I had the honor to preside, but in view of a charge recently made against me because of my exercise of the delegated power with which I was entrusted, it may be proper for me to say to you a few words in relation thereto. I took a seat last year in Mr. Lincoln's Cabinet against my own judgment, without consulting my taste for the position, and, I may say, against my own determination. I resigned that post, when I thought my mission was ended in organizing, equipping, and supplying, under the most adverse circumstances, a larger army than had ever been raised in the same space of time of human history. When I did accept the place it was with the perfect understanding between Mr. Lincoln and myself that whenever I thought proper to resign should I be privileged to do so; and when a vacancy occurred in the appointment to Russia, he offered me the post,

and I was glad to accept it. Why, gentlemen, I toiled in that Department as no man ever toiled before; I have told you that in my younger years I worked for twenty hours out of the twenty-four for successive months; but that labor was nothing in comparison with the overpowering toil which I underwent at Washington. To say nothing of the extraordinary necessities of the Department, arising from an unforeseen and threatening national emergency. The doors of my private dwelling were besieged from daylight to the latest hours of the night; the department was surrounded on all hands, and at all hours.—Certain members of Congress, who figure in the vote of censure, were ever besieging my doors, and often patiently waiting for hours to catch a part of the drippings from the War Department. Meanwhile I managed the delicate and trying affairs of my situation as wisely as I knew how. Of course I committed some errors; but I did not commit the wrong with which I am charged in the resolution of Congress. I solemnly assert that neither in motive nor deed can I be justly chargeable with the commission of any wrong in the administration of those affairs, and I am proud to say here in revivifying my official conduct, that I see no act which I would not repeat under the same circumstances. Upon my appointment to the position, I found the department destitute of all the means of defence; without guns, and with little prospect of purchasing the *matériel* of war; I found the nation without an army, and I found scarcely a man throughout the whole War Department in whom I could put my trust. The Adjutant General deserted. The Quartermaster General ran off. The Commissary General was upon his death bed. More than half the clerks were disloyal. I remember that upon one occasion General Scott came to me apparently in great mental tribulation. Said he, "I have spent the most miserable day of my life; a friend of my boyhood has just told me I am disgracing myself by staying here and serving this fragment of the government, in place of going to Virginia and serving under the banner of my native State; and I am pained to death." But the old hero was patriotic, loyal and wise enough to say that his friend was wrong; and he was right in remaining where he was.

It should be remembered, also, that in those days of peril and alarm, an outcry went up from all portions of the loyal States, urging the Government to procure arms, equipments, and supplies, by any means, and at any cost; to disregard the usual routine of contracts; to cut through "red tape," and at the hazard of encountering speculators and speculators, to prepare itself to meet the immediate dangers. Great as were the exertions then made, they fell far short of the demands of the people. The Administration was at that time censured for its caution in guarding itself against imposition, because such caution was an evidence of delay.

But to proceed. You all remember, gentlemen, the day of the President's proclamation calling upon the people of Pennsylvania (because the demand was made upon you here in common with other States) for troops to defend the national capital. My son happening to be in Washington, I sent him thither with the utmost despatch and asked him to appeal to every man he met in this town and through the country to send down every soldier who would come. Within three days after the issuing of the proclamation four hundred and eighty troops from Pennsylvania arrived in Washington. They were the first to inspire the government with hope and courage to contend with the awful crisis then impending. They came there without arms and were furnished from the arsenal at that place. Directly after this—within two or three days—three or four regiments were assembled at Cockeysville, Maryland, by my order. At the same time a number of bridges on the Philadelphia and Baltimore railroad, via Wilmington, were burned or destroyed. It was at this time that the mob in Baltimore, murdered our unarmed soldiers in her streets on their way to the defence of the capital, and the Baltimore and Ohio railroad refused to carry our troops. At that time when the loyalty of nearly all the inhabitants was doubted, Mr. Seward, the Secretary of State, in company with the Secretary of the Treasury, called upon me and said "we must have somebody in New York to assist the public officers there in collecting and forwarding troops," asking me to name any individual whom I considered, competent for that purpose. I was acquainted with but a few people in New York, yet after a moment's reflection I recollected Mr. Cummings, with whom I had an intimacy when he was a citizen of this State. The two gentlemen then informed me that they had appointed Mr. Cico, of the sub-treasury General Dix, now in the army, Mr. Opdyke, the present Mayor of the city of New York, and Mr. Blatchford, a citizen of New York, and as I have stated, requested me to name some other gentlemen. I gave the name of Mr. Cummings and associated with it that of Gov. Morgan of the State of New York. To show how guarded I was in these appointments, I will read the order that I gave upon that occasion:

DEPARTMENT OF WAR, April 23, 1861.

"In consideration of the extraordinary emergencies which demand immediate and decisive measures for the preservation of the national capital and the defense of the National Government, I hereby authorize Edwin D. Morgan, Governor of the State of New York, and Alexander Cummings, now in the city of New York, to make all necessary arrangements for the transportation of troops and munitions of war in aid and assistance of the officers of the army of the United States, until communication by mail and telegraph is completely re-established between the cities of Washington and New York. Either of them, in case of

inability to consult with the other, may exercise the authority hereby given.

SIMON CAMERON,
Secretary of War.

It will be seen that I did not intrust those gentlemen with the expenditure of any money. I was careful to give them no authority to act independent of the military officers of the government. Sometime afterwards, I received a telegram signed by Messrs. Morgan and Cummings, asking for authority to draw money, which I referred in the usual manner to the Treasury Department. That is all I had to do with the matter, and at the end of fourteen days, communication having been restored, I revoked their authority, as will be seen by the following note:

WAR DEPARTMENT, *May 7, 1861.*

GENTLEMEN:—The extraordinary emergency which demanded immediate and decisive measures for the preservation of the national capital, and the defense of the National Government, rendered it necessary for this Department to adopt extraordinary means for that purpose, and having full confidence in your intelligence, experience and integrity, you were authorized to make all necessary arrangements for the transportation of troops, &c., in aid and assistance of the officers of the army of the United States, until the re-establishment of communication, by mails and telegraph, between the cities of New York and Washington.

Uninterrupted communication between the two cities being now again established, and it being desirable that the duties heretofore attended to by you should be hereafter performed by the officers of the army, to whom they properly belong, I beg to tender you the thanks of this Department for the very prompt and efficient manner in which you have discharged the duties assigned you, and to request you to cease making purchases, procure transports, or attending to other duties under authority given, which could be justified only by the emergency now happily, no longer existing.

Respectfully, yours,

SIMON CAMERON.

Gov. E. D. Morgan and Alexander Cummings,
Esqrs., New York city.

Now, gentlemen, in regard to the Congressional committee of investigation of which the country has heard so much, I have reason to believe that the original intention of its appointment was to control the War Department and place money in the pockets of its members. The second or third day after the announcement of the committee, its chairman called upon me and desired that I should authorize him to furnish a certain regiment with arms, munitions, clothing, &c. I refused his application, because I thought from my knowledge of his character that he was unworthy of a trust. After a further colloquy with the chairman, I ordered him out of the War Department; and of course I was attacked by that committee.

The committee of investigation have made the additional charge upon me in my official connection with the government, of having bought a greater number of guns than were needed. I did order a large number of arms; but I will take this occasion to answer that charge. It must be borne in mind that I was supplying an army of more than 700,000 men, and that the loss of arms in a single campaign has been estimated by military men to reach as high as fifty per cent. In a glance at the statistics I find that in round numbers I ordered nearly a million of muskets, almost one hundred thousand carbines and perhaps as many swords. When I took possession of the War Department I found that there were but few muskets in the arsenals, no swords of any account, and scarcely any munitions of war.—Within a short time after the proclamation, it became apparent that there was no difficulty in getting troops, but there was great difficulty in procuring arms. I found the ordnance department without a head; the person having charge there being an old man, who was conceded by those in whom I had confidence, including Gen. Scott, to be incompetent for the duties of the position. I superseded him, and put in his place one who was believed to be fully competent, but who soon proved in the opinion of my associates to be unequal to the crisis. I felt, personally, reluctant to enter into any contract myself, as I had no time for such details, and therefore directed Mr. Thomas A. Scott, my assistant, to act in conjunction with Col. Ripley, and that he should see that every contract was so guarded that, in case of failure at the end of thirty days, the contract should be revoked, leaving to Col. Ripley to determine the quality and price of the arms to be contracted for. At this time Governors of States, officers wanting arms, cabinet ministers, and members of Congress were constantly making application for arms, charging the Ordnance Department with inefficiency, stating that if consent were given they could be procured, and I therefore directed Mr. Scott to act in conjunction with Colonel Ripley and to contract with every man who was willing to make a musket or furnish a sword, and from whom the other necessary munitions of war could be obtained, at the same time instructing him to see that the chief of the ordnance department should fix the price and determine the character of the arms. The allegation has been repeatedly iterated that I made these contracts with an eye to personal preference. But I have already proven, gentlemen, that the furthest limit of even my official action in the matter was simply to order the making of such contracts as were necessary, leaving all that regarded price or quality in the hands of the ordnance department, and to this day, I scarcely know any of the individuals with whom contracts were made.

The special contract exciting public attention was made with a party by the name of

BOKER. On the fifth of September, under cover from the President, I received a note, which I now read:

WASHINGTON, Sept. 4, 1861.

HON. SIMON CAMERON, *Secretary of War*:

SIR:—Our resident partner in Europe advises us by last steamer of a lot of upwards of one hundred thousand stand of arms—rifled, percussion muskets—new and in good condition—having been placed in his control by making advances thereon.

We desire to offer them to your Department, and should it appear to you of sufficient importance to secure the immediate delivery there of so large a quantity of good arms, we would invite your attention thereto.

We offer the arms at a price not exceeding eighteen dollars each, subject to the inspection and approval of an armorer whom you shall select to accompany our authorized agent. If the article is not satisfactory, the Government will incur no expense, and if approved, you will secure an article much needed.

We also control by advances thereon over 18,000 cavalry sabres, which we offer as above, at a price not to exceed \$7 50 a piece.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servants,

(Signed) HERMAN BOKER & CO.,
50 Cliff street, New York.

Also of Liege, Solinger, Remscherd, Birmingham, Bown.

This was at the time when the Queen's proclamation had prohibited, among other things, the exportation of arms to the United States. You remember, gentlemen, we sent an agent (Mr. Schuyler, of New York,) out to Belgium to procure arms for our government. He succeeded in purchasing one hundred thousand guns there, but being unable to ship them all directly, he sent a portion to England, where (the proclamation to which I have just referred being soon after issued) he was prevented from transporting or using the arms in any manner. In this extremity of the large army of soldiers in and about Washington, not two hundred thousand of them were armed. Upon the letter I have just read was the endorsement of the President in his own hand writing in these words:

"I approve the carrying this through carefully, cautiously and expeditiously. Avoid conflicts and interference."
A. LINCOLN."

—the literal meaning of the endorsement was that the world should not know of our military deficiency and weakness until the evil had been remedied and that care and caution were to be used as heretofore in keeping inviolate the secret of our defect. Fully coinciding with the President, and in obedience to his order, I promptly directed this contract to be closed; and I assure you gentlemen, without the arms it produced, we should not have been able to achieve the late glorious victories in the west.

I may add, in proof of the great anxiety of all to obtain arms, that but a very few days before I left the War Department, the Cabinet

agreed to adopt a conditional contract made by Mr. Schuyler for 100,000 guns in Belgium, which I successfully opposed on the ground that we had guns enough contracted for, and with the encouragement which had been afforded to our own manufacturers, the supply would probably be sufficient for our future wants. By this means \$1,800,000 have been retained in the country to be expended in those localities from which our soldiers have volunteered, and this occurred after all those contracts had been completed, of which so much complaint is now made.

The investigating committee of Congress have said that the muskets made at the Springfield armory cost only \$12 apiece. That assertion like many others that have been made in connection with supplies for the army, is not the fact. Without taking into consideration the expense of superintendence, the cost of buildings, machinery or capital invested, the mere net cost of the gun for labor and material when there is no competition in time of peace, has amounted to \$12 60. But had those guns purchased on my order proved to be twice more expensive than they actually were, then, in view of the fact that the army was practically useless without them, I would have done exactly as I did with the beef contract, to which other gentlemen have seen fit to refer. When we expected large arrivals of soldiers from Pennsylvania and other States, and there was nothing to feed them with, the Acting Commissary General came to me and said, "I can now buy two thousand beeves if I pay two or three cents a pound more than they should be worth."

"Well, I replied," "pay it," (applause)—"pay a dollar per pound rather than a soldier should suffer, but be guarded that your contract ceases when a supply can be had at the customary price"—which was done. He made a contract for two thousand beeves, and the whole world rung with the announcement that the Secretary of War had cheated the government in order to enrich some favorite, and yet the contract was made with my personal enemies. So, again, I was censured at the time of the battle of Bull's Run for not having sufficient cavalry in the field. Yet I could not speak in my own defence, for the safety of the government compelled me to silence. Plenty of horsemen offered their services; but I had no pistols, swords or carbines to give them; and I did not want the world to know that such was our condition. My function was to raise an army of the largest kind in the shortest possible time, and to supply them with whatever needful material I could first lay hands upon. As soon as I could obtain pistols, carbines, swords and holsters, I had cavalry enough. But then the cry was "he has got too many." Of course, then again I was cheating the government, by giving my friends all the horse contracts. [Laughter.] Well, Mr. Mayor, the horses have been in the service and the country has been saved. Those who then cried "no

more horses," to-day can see advertisements for the purchase of an increased number; and to-day I saw also a published advertisement asking for proposals to furnish more muskets.

Had the material resources of the government been, in any manner, commensurate with the emergency, the war would have been terminated ere this. So far as concerns myself, I would rather have had a million of guns too many than that a single soldier in any of our battles should have been sacrificed for the want of a weapon. I suppose that had I been the willing tool of every man who wanted to rob the government, and if in place of attending to my duties, I had been content to receive men at my house and treat them to the hospitalities of my social and political position, or allowed them to control me in the discharge of my duties, those men who now attempt to slander me would still be most profuse in compliment and profession. More than this, had I remained in the War Department until this vote came off, I should doubtless have received the compliment paid to my late and esteemed colleague, Mr. Welles. [Laughter.] He was charged with having improperly employed a man to purchase ships; yet the House of Representatives voted down a resolution to censure him by about the same vote that they censured me for having secured the services of an employee. Mr. Welles obtained the assistance referred to long after the excitement and confusion attending the commencement of the rebellion had ceased. I did so at a time when the country was almost totally bereft of a government, and when we did not know whom to trust.

Now, gentlemen, I could narrate to you in this way many incidents of official connection with the War Department. Were it necessary I would give you some particulars connected with the history of this man Dawes, who appears to be most active in the persecution against me. I understand he is a little prosecuting attorney living some where in Massachusetts. I am well aware of the real cause of his enmity, and I will briefly state it. Some people of Massachusetts, especially about the good city of Boston, own nearly all the stock in the Wilmington and Baltimore railroad. Notwithstanding that road has accumulated more money on account of this war, by the transportation of troops and war material for the government, than it ever did before in double the length of time; (which fact was chiefly owing to the confidence I entertained in its President,) yet the management of the road were displeased because they would not have an entire monopoly of the Government business. When the bridges on the Wilmington and Baltimore road were burned, it became absolutely necessary to construct a new line of travel to Washington. By my direction, the President of the Pennsylvania railroad, Mr. Thompson, in connection with the Wilmington road, made arrangements to run a line of boats from Perryville to Annapolis, and suc-

ceeded in getting the project into successful operation. This new route was used until the Baltimore and Ohio road was taken possession of by me for the government, and until the bridges of the Wilmington road were rebuilt. In the meantime, an arrangement was made with the Harrisburg, Reading and New Jersey roads, to reduce the fare from six to four dollars from New York to Baltimore, per soldier. But my action in this matter took money out of the purses of gentlemen in Boston, and Mr. Dawes, who appeared to represent the interests affected, became my enemy. This is the only reason for his opposition of which I am aware. I do not know him further than that he was frequently hanging about the War Department in common with other applicants for special favors. Having my whole time occupied in preparing an army out of raw and undisciplined soldiers, of course I may have run counter to the desires of such gentlemen, and consequently, they now return the disfavor.

This theme is by no means a pleasant one for me; but after the recent wrong which has been done me I felt that when talking to my old friends and neighbors I would do myself the simple justice to speak plainly. It would be needless for me to attempt to convince you of my honesty of purpose and intention in every official act of my life. I am known to you personally, and I feel willing to abide by, and will fully appreciate your decision upon my character as your fellow citizen. [Great applause.]

I leave you with great reluctance. It has been the dream of my life to go abroad in some position that would enable me to catch a proper glimpse of the beauty and grandeur of the old world; but as the time draws near when I shall bid you a parting adieu, I approach it with the pain caused by the separation from old and dear friends.

Perhaps I have said enough—it may be too much. I desire to state to you, however, that my relations with the President have been and still are of the most cordial character. I entertain as great a respect for him as for any one with whom I have ever been associated. He is an honest, high-minded gentleman, as well as a faithful public officer. (Applause.)

This rebellion will be ended after a while, and with it we will end the cause of this and all future internal strife, as I hope. (Great applause.) I have never been an abolitionist. I am not one now. But if I had the power, I would call into the field every man able to shoulder a musket, whether he be white or black, that this war might be brought to a speedy and certain close. And I believe we will come to that. I do not believe that, after a while, when the hot Southern climate is killing our soldiers who are fighting for the government, our people will be content to see their sons and brothers die, when men acclimated to the South are able to defend the country, and of their own strength and will, to drive all the rebels out of

the land. [Applause.] There cannot be a doubt about how this slavery question is to be settled in the end. But, so far as I am concerned, I am willing to leave its disposal to the Great Ruler above. I would not punish the deluded rank and file after they have laid down their arms; I would not harm one hair on the head of a single individual who was enticed or seduced upon misrepresentation to join the rebel army; but had I the leaders, I would do with them as I said I would do with the Mayor of Baltimore when he asked the President to send back the national troops from Cockeysville, and not allow them to pass through Baltimore. I said "let me alone, and I will hang him and his whole posse upon the trees around the War Department." Had I been allowed to do so, our troops would never have been impeded in their march through that city, and by such a course the rebellion would now have been crushed. Such are my opinions on that question, which, perhaps, I sometimes express unwisely for my own good; and this is another reason for the passage of the resolution to which I alluded. Every border State Representative who thinks his brother or son or kindred in the rebel ranks does not deserve hanging for his treason, voted in favor of that resolution.

[After a short pause Gen. Cameron concluded as follows:]

Gentlemen, this is a contest in which we all have a direct interest. Pennsylvania has a moral power which no other State in this Union possesses; and therefore every citizen of Pennsylvania can do a great deal towards bringing this war to an end. I have no right to give advice, but I shall be glad, in leaving the country, to believe there is to be no party here but the party of the country—the party for the war and in favor of supporting the Administration in conducting the war; because whether men were opposed to Mr. Lincoln or otherwise, by his administration alone is the war to be conducted. If Pennsylvania will stand by his wise and patriotic measures, she can aid the President and control the result. I remember that in the war of 1812 every man who opposed the war was considered an enemy of his country. I trust that the same beneficial rule will be applied in the present case. [Applause.] If we falter in patriotic devotion, the people of the south will be encouraged to persevere in their rebellious and infamous design; for the war can only be ended by a determined and united policy here in the north. Why, it was only the other day that a letter was seen from the wife of the traitor Davis, stating that "Jeff. was cruelly deceived in Pennsylvania and New York, where he expected the support of half the people, because he was led to believe more than one half of the people in both of those States were going to join him." That is the current delusion in the South; and so long as we give them aid and comfort by divisions among ourselves, just so long will they be encouraged to fight the government. Let

us all, with one heart, looking solely to but one object, go through this war; and that being over, we can rake up the old political carcasses of days gone by, and again attack each other with all the spirit of Whig and Democratic fury. In the first place, *let us finish the war.* [Long continued applause.] Short as the interval is before my departure, I confidently expect to be able to carry with me the news of further vital successes, which will prove to the powers of Europe that the Union is safe, and that the redemption of the nation is drawing nigh, and is even now at hand.

In answer to repeated calls, Robert A. Lambertson, Esq., addressed the audience as follows:

MR. MAYOR. It gives me pleasure to respond to such a call upon such an occasion. If a sixteen years unbroken friendship with our distinguished guest enables me to know anything of his mind and heart, this I surely know, that wherever he may go, this evening will be a very pleasant memory to him, and whatever years may yet be allotted to him—and may they be many—he will never forget this gathering of his friends and neighbors. And why? Because he can appreciate at its full worth this manifestation of the confidence he enjoys and the esteem in which he is held by those among whom his life has been spent. However fiercely he may be maligned by those who know him least, he will remember with pleasure that they who know him best neither doubt nor forsake him. [Applause.]

There is, perhaps, no surer test of character, of what a man *really* is than the deliberate, well considered judgment formed of him by his home people, those among whom all the days of his manhood have been passed and with whom he has been associated socially and in business. Here, then, have come together, alike irrespective of party tie or partizan affiliation, the old man with his experience and the young man with his hopes, the neighbors and the immediate fellow citizens of our honored guest, to give a clear, distinct and emphatic utterance of their belief in his integrity as a man, his usefulness as a member of our community and his fidelity to his convictions of duty when in official position. There, sitting by his side, as he has just told us, is the friend of his earlier and later years—one of the very few left among us who has known him from the day the orphaned boy, seeking work, came to our capital, though penniless, yet with the stout heart of a man, to enter upon the battle of life. There is the friend of a lifetime, whose confidence has been unshaken during all the years that have elapsed since he who is become the Representative of our Government, to stand in the court of the Czar, was the humble printer boy. We are all here, on the eve of the departure of our friend and fellow citizen, to bid him the good-bye and wish him the God speed. [Applause.]

Sir, he has referred to the malignant assaults which have been made against him by his enemies. Thus surrounded by his neighbors who

know him, the shafts fall harmless at his feet. When he is gone these cruel blows may still be aimed at him; but they will not reach him: he leaves too many friends, who will not suffer the absent to be wronged. When he returns, he will show that he possesses abundant ability to take care of himself and fight his own battles. [Applause.] He has been bitterly followed by his enemies; he has been closely surrounded by his friends. And this is always so with the decided, energetic, resolute man. The *positive man* in life who continually presses forward in the struggle with the world must, in his progress, come in contact with and pass over those who are in his way. Such a one wins devoted friends and makes carping enemies.

But, sir, whilst we will not forget the true-hearted, open-handed friend and citizen, he is eminently entitled to our regard as a *Pennsylvanian*. To whatever depths of baseness his villifiers have descended, no one of them that I can now remember has been so false as to challenge or doubt the devotion of Gen. Cameron to the interests of our own Commonwealth. Devoted to the Union of our fathers, he was always a Pennsylvanian for Pennsylvania—Pennsylvania in and of the Union. He has ever exhibited a just pride in her vast resources, her inexhaustible store house of minerals, her manufactures, her farms, her schools and her churches; and moved by this pride and his inextinguishable love of home, he has sought, both in private life and official station, to advance her prosperity and promote her greatness. As Pennsylvanians we honor him. [Applause.]

And now, sir, let him go away assured that as the loyalty and truth of Pennsylvania have been in the past, so will they continue. From within our borders shall go forth no uncertain sound as to the suppression of the infamous rebellion convulsing the land. Pennsylvania has given more than a hundred thousand of her children as a free will offering on behalf of the maintenance of our government. Her army has gone with the stern and fixed resolution that the Union shall be preserved, treason crushed out, and traitors brought to the rope. Our guest has mentioned a remark recently made to him by a lady friend of the head of the pseudo government of the Confederate States, that Jefferson Davis believed that the one-half of the men of Pennsylvania and New York would be with him and his fellow conspirators in the disruption of the Union. Upon what a foundation of sand did the arch traitor build his hopes! How little did he understand the people of the Keystone and Empire States! Why, sir, in their truth and honest frankness, they could not believe that men—Senators sworn to support the Constitution (!) could be so perjured as to raise the bloody hand against it and against our good government. But Sumter awakened them. When the dastardly assault was made by armed thousands upon that little half-starved garrison, and the national emblem was sub-

jected to villainous insult, then it was that the North became aroused as a strong man from his sleep, and Pennsylvania and New York, like giants linked arms and rushed forward to the defence of the capital and the life of the nation. Let us all take courage; the heinous crime of treason will speedily be punished—let our guest and all of us remember, whilst the blood of our brethren—of *his brethren*—is crying aloud from the ground to Him who rules in the hosts of Heaven, and upon earth, that He has said "Vengeance is mine." That vengeance is moving forward and Southward like a pillar of fire by night, at the head of our armies. It is moving with the grandeur and sublimity of the storm in its wrath. Already the wail of the despondent rebel is heard. Even now the key of the Mississippi valley is ours; the old flag flies in triumph over the Crescent city, and soon the great North-west will again have access through its freed and opened channel to the gulf. [Applause.]

Let, then, the minister to Russia depart with fresh hope and renewed faith. Let him, when away over the waters and across another continent, as he stands near the Emperor of the Russias, that firm and fast friend of our nation, assure that sovereign that our people are as one man in their devotion to the Union, in this baptism of blood through which they are passing, and that they will sweep from the face of the earth the traitor and his treason.—Let him be assured that our government will pass through the fiery ordeal and come forth purer, better and stronger than ever. [Applause.]

And, sir, let us now say to our friend and guest that he bears with him our wishes for his prosperity and success in his mission. Whilst he is gone he will hear of the advance of our arms and of the valor of the sons of Pennsylvania. Already written upon the banners borne in front of the regiments of our State are names indicative of brave and brilliant deeds. Already we may there read of Drainesville, Rockanoke, Winchester, Falmouth and Shiloh. [Applause.] When he returns, may it be to meet these same soldiers returned from the battle fields, once more having resumed the avocations of peace. May he then learn from them how the same flags have been planted over Yorktown—how they have gleamed above the rebel capital at Richmond, waved from the spires of Montgomery and floated again at Sumter, and over that nest of treason and traitors, accursed Charleston. [Applause.] Let him come home to realize that again, everywhere, from our most northerly limit to the Gulf, from the wild Atlantic away off to the slopes of the Pacific, the brave old flag is honored and respected—its stripes wooing the evening winds, and its stars answering back the light of the stars in the firmament. May he return to live once more among us, and to realize that our people are true to their history, worthy of their fathers, and that, under the smile of the Omnipotent,

they have made our Union as imperishable as the everlasting hills. [Applause.]

Hon. Thomas E. Cochran, Auditor General of the State, was then loudly called for. He rose and said:

MR. MAYOR:—While it does me unfeigned pleasure to respond to the call that has just been made, I may say it is altogether unexpected. I was not even aware of the entertainment that was proposed, and only arrived in Harrisburg at an hour quite late, when, upon being invited to come here, I came with great pleasure. I recognized in the gentleman whom you and citizens of Harrisburg have here assembled to honor, one who has well maintained an eminent position in the history of our State and of our country. I recognized in the name of General Cameron that of a citizen, who, in public life, has been always remarkable for the interest he has taken in every project or measure of public policy calculated to improve the condition of the Commonwealth, to lift her in the scale of sister States, and to make her prominent, influential and powerful in the Union, which we all so love. And it is eminently fit that, after having passed so many years of his life here in his native State, when he is about for the first time to voyage over the ocean surges, and to spend some years in an honorable and conspicuous position at a foreign court, that his fellow citizens, who have known him long and well, should meet around this board to testify in the emphatic terms expressed by the gentleman who has just taken his seat, their confidence in his integrity, his character, and their respect for the public services he has rendered to the country.

Now, sir, it does not become me to speak of the individual in the terms which you here in Harrisburg may well use, for although I have been for many years familiar with the name, yet I cannot pretend to have enjoyed that familiar intimacy with the distinguished guest of the evening which would authorize me to speak of those personal qualities that have just elicited such decided marks of approbation. I may, however, as a citizen of this Commonwealth, (one who has lived in it the largest portion of his life,) submit my testimony that on all occasions when the interests of the State were involved, throughout the public career of the gentleman who is now about to leave us, he has borne in mind as his cardinal object the prosperity and welfare of Pennsylvania first, but Pennsylvania not superior to the great national interests of the country. Pennsylvania as nearest to his heart, which was large enough to embrace the welfare and the good of the whole nation. [Applause.] And, sir, whatever detractors may say, and however certain men may be willing at this season, when the diverse and minute parts of the governmental machinery have assumed a certain regular position and operation—whatever detractors may say about the transactions of different bureaus during the early part of

the confusion and disseverance of affairs connected with the outbreak of this rebellion, yet it must be borne in mind by every candid and fair man that that great emergency came upon a country wholly unprepared to meet such a grave and overwhelming issue as was presented to it at that time. That is no fair charity which will permit any man to scan with an eye to censure measures taken in that very great emergency as he would scan them, very properly and justly, under circumstances of a very different character. Now, sir, we know how we were in Pennsylvania, we all must be conscious of the situation of this State at that time: we had no military organization here, we were without experience in military matters and had to do everything on the pressure of the moment, and that, too, when the enemy—the rebels—were thundering at the very gates of the national capital. Was it possible for our State government, without experience—was it possible for us, without organization—was it possible for us, without the men and the means at our command, to make all needful and indispensable arrangements and preparations, just according to the red tape formalities, which were customary in the government at ordinary times, when the nation needed no army but a skeleton, to maintain the peace throughout every section of our great Union? Why, sir, it is perfectly absurd for men to stand up at this day and attempt to criticise, with a censorious eye, measures taken in the very extremity of the national life, when it was at the point of death. I say, sir, there is great injustice involved in any censure of that kind, because of transactions criticised under the circumstances that I have stated. It is an appeal to the common sense, the fair judgment and the candor of every man who is willing to look at the matter fairly and without prejudice—it is a fair appeal to all that is just and right, which authorizes us to say that no such censure is proper, and to foresee that no such censure will be sustained by the honest, the fair and the candid judgment of the people of this country. [Increased applause.] I do not know what selfish or improper motives may lie at the foundation of the recent hostility to Gen. Cameron, but I certainly do judge from the results that it could not have emanated from a proper and judicious discrimination, or a fair comprehension of the state of things which existed, and which I have attempted to describe, during Gen. Cameron's administration of the War Department. I may be permitted to say without vain boasting, but simply as a citizen of Pennsylvania, that after a period of doubt—a time during which there were grave suspicions entertained in regard to official operations here in this State—now, at this time, in the judgment of the government at Washington the affairs of Pennsylvania are admitted to have been managed with greater care and economy, and with greater prudence than probably any other State in the Union, in connection with this war. Well now, sir, I say

it knowingly, for I had an official relation with this matter, that I do not believe there was a man connected with the operations of this State who possessed that practical knowledge and necessary drill which would enable him to discharge those onerous and unexpected duties pertaining to military matters according to discipline and rule, or without making some mistakes. Yet they were discharged fully and judiciously. The single object was to promote the good of the country, and the result has been that Pennsylvania stands higher, I apprehend, in the estimation of the Government at Washington than any other State in this Union. The gentleman in front of me nods assent to that. Well, now, if that is so, why not apply the same rule to the conduct of operations on the part of the General Government as you would apply to affairs in Pennsylvania? I know, and I am willing to state here as an individual, that mistakes were made in certain departments of Pennsylvania, and there may have been mistakes made in the governmental departments at Washington; but those mistakes were such as any man might make in the prosecution of his business.

Gen. CAMERON. If the gentleman will allow me to interrupt him, I will say now what I have had occasion to state already. I have reviewed my course since leaving the War Department, and upon careful consideration, I am free to state that during my official career in the management of that Department, I did not commit a single act which I would not do again under the same circumstances.

Mr. COCHRAN. I have not the slightest doubt of it. I have not the slightest doubt that every measure or action undertaken by Gen. Cameron was essential, at the time and under the circumstances, for the welfare of the country. That was the point of my argument, for I am speaking argumentatively. Under different circumstances, the aspect of the case might be totally different, and Gen. Cameron would not have done what he did; but we must take into consideration the circumstances existing at the time, and base our conclusions upon those surroundings.

But I have dilated more amply on that subject than I had any expectation of doing when unexpectedly called upon. I am very glad to see that the time has come when the people of Harrisburg have gathered around a citizen whom for many years they have had reason to respect, and who, when he is about to bid farewell, they are glad to assemble here to bid God speed. I hope the time will come when this country will be restored in all its integrity and prosperity to the full enjoyment of those blessings and privileges which, under the Divine Providence, have been handed down to us by our fathers, and I hope that when the gentleman who is the recipient of our farewell greeting this evening shall return to this country he will return to a re-united and un-

broken union, where every American citizen will recognize every other American citizen as a brother and as an equal; and where, from one end of this great Union to the other, as it was constituted under the auspices of the great men who have preceded our generation, he shall find the same old flag flying, and the same institutions existing. And I trust that in that day not only shall he find these to exist, but that he shall return here when our affairs, socially and politically, are restored to their ancient basis, and ourselves glad to greet him on his return to a country which he will no doubt faithfully serve in that quarter to which he is now delegated, as he heretofore served it in other official positions.

Hon. Judge PEARSON was next called for and spoke as follows:

Mr. Mayor, I have not recently been addicted to anything like public speaking; but there are some matters to which I would call your attention for a moment. We ought not only to consider the present situation of affairs in judging of a man's actions, but also the circumstances previously connected therewith. My friend across the table was called upon to preside in the War Department at a time when it was in the most distracted condition. No previous preparation of any character had been made for waging war or defending the country; he was called upon in an extreme emergency; and now at the distance of many months, when our army is efficient and our navy triple its former standing in strength and efficiency, we should consider the actions of the departments of the government at Washington wholly in view of the means at their command. At that time preparations were making by the rebels for attacking Washington city, yet the nation was without an army at the National Capital, and with but limited means of bringing soldiers upon the ground. The various departments of government were filled with disloyal clerks and rebel sympathisers who were awaiting an opportunity to do all they possibly could in aid of the rebellion. Especially were these men to be found in the War Department; and when Gen. Cameron took the chair of Secretary of War, having no confidence in his subordinates, he was required to employ agents whom he could trust. At this time, when everything has changed, it would appear that men have ceased to consider the extraordinary posture of affairs that then existed, and proceed to pass judgment upon his actions as coolly as though he had no pressing emergencies and overwhelming responsibilities to meet, and as though he had been able as was the present Secretary of War to send twenty or forty thousand soldiers to one point, and a like number to another, Gen. Cameron with difficulty obtained fifty men to defend the capital.

Judge Pearson further referred to the difficulty experienced by the War Department in organizing and equipping a large army, in pro-

curing means of transportation for the troops, etc. Yet in that most perilous times the government had been accused of negligence, not to say corruption in the filling of contracts for the sustenance of the army. This State administration was not long since an object of censure for the indiscreet appliance of certain funds in clothing and arming her soldiers; but a patient consideration of the circumstances attending the operations of the State Executive and his officers had convinced the people that all charges of impropriety were groundless. Such was the case with Gen. Cameron. Had the movers and supporters of the resolution recently passed by Congress understood the motives and objects of the Secretary of War, or viewed them from the proper stand point, they would have at least hesitated to pass censure upon his official acts. That gentleman could at least console himself with the reflection that no one of his acquaintances or those who knew him would pretend to say he had ever been found other than true to his country, faithful to the interests of his State and dear to his friends. [Great applause]

Mr. DAVID FLEMING then responded to the call as follows:

Mr. Mayor: After the able speeches you have heard, I shall not undertake to say more than a few words, especially with my present feeble voice. I merely desire to bear my testimony from the observations I have made as a private citizen, of the integrity and ability with which our distinguished friend has managed the affairs of the War Department during the time of his administration. As has been said by the distinguished gentleman who just preceded me, we must look at things from the proper stand point. Now, I remember very well that just after this rebellion broke out, that honorable gentleman, (Judge Pearson,) who is not likely to be moved by anything like sudden disturbances, was then so much moved that, contrary to every principle of his nature, he was willing to connive at the selling of liquor on the Sabbath in this town. [Laughter!]

Now, sir, when that is the case we do not want anything to convince us of the state of affairs at that time. No man could then safely predict that we would have a government today; no man knew who of his neighbors was faithful to the government. Here were soldiers coming and going without arms and without the likelihood of obtaining them at Washington. There was Gen. Cameron in the War Department required to find money and arms without any assurance of obtaining either. I think it was only the providence of God that placed a man of his energy, business and industry at the head of the War Department, instead of a man whose hands have been tied up with "red tape" all his life, and who might not be willing to undertake such a responsibility without the usual red tape formality. I repeat, gentlemen, my firm belief that the appointment of Gen. Cameron was providential; for certainly

history does not exhibit an instance of any man who has performed the same labor and brought about the same results within the same length of time.

But in regard to what has been done by Congress, I have only to say that the advocates of the resolution of censure upon General Cameron are men who know but little about him. He was where he could no longer serve them, and I suppose they acted on the principle that a "living dog is better than a dead lion." As I did not intend to make a speech, being called upon, I have said thus much for our distinguished friend; and, when he goes to Europe, I say "God speed" to him, and hope that upon returning he will find our country happy, united and invincible.

Mr. CHARLES F. MUENCH then made some remarks referring to the boyhood days of General Cameron and himself. He said that General Cameron had ever been his friend and protector, through whose pecuniary aid he was enabled to start a printing office in this town, and for whose assistance upon many occasions he felt extremely grateful. The speaker alluded to his declining health, and that it was with difficulty he could leave his home; but he could not forego the pleasure of again meeting his old friend, and assuring him of the gratitude and friendship which would continue through life.

Col. A. J. HERR, District Attorney of the county, was the next speaker. He said:

Mr. Mayor, I do not feel disposed to respond to the call, because the sentiment which was just announced by my elderly friend, Mr. Muench, has stirred an emotion in my heart which I think ought to be expressed. It is simply this, that if I had my choice as to what should be engraven upon my tombstone after death, of all high sounding praise or lettered sentences, I would prefer to have simply this: "Here lies the poor man's friend." (Applause.) When it happens that such an eulogy should be uttered of a living man, in the presence of respectable and intelligent citizens, I think it is the highest meed of praise that one man can bestow upon another.

Well, now, Mr. Mayor, we are all here as friends and citizens, gathered together solely for the purpose of testifying our respect and esteem for a philanthropist and a statesman. The motive is correct. It is one in which we cannot too frequently indulge—and one which, when indulged, invariably gives encouragement to merit and genius in every department of life. It is this desire to win the applause of their fellow men which gives energy and encouragement to the toiling young; and every good motive that finds an utterance in its execution generates like motives in the breasts of others. Now, then, what position does General Cameron occupy in our midst? He is a man who was raised among us, and who has been connected with many of the internal improvements of this town and county. He has shown by his

energy and public spirit that he is possessed of those true principles that go to make a great and good man; and we of Pennsylvania—of this county especially—are to-day the unconscious gleaners of the harvest which was sown mainly through the instrumentality of his energy and wise foresight. For what are we not indebted to these railroads, which he labored so earnestly to build? They are bringing to us the comforts, conveniences and wealth that make our homes happy. We are indebted to our friend and fellow citizen for the prosperity of our city and all the appliances of the railroad system. What, though he was the unconscious instrument of securing this great benefit to a community—what though he did not know of the responsible and truly important position—he lives now, in the Providence of God, to hear it said that to him we owe, to a certain extent, the prosperity of this State.—That certainly is a matter of which he should feel proud. (Applause.)

I recollect it was but a few days ago that an old man in this town was lying upon a bed of sickness. He thought his days were numbered and that his time had come, and naturally for an old man his mind reverted back to his early days, and how well do I remember the eloquent tears that spoke from his eyes when he referred to the goodness and kindness always shown him by Gen. Simon Cameron, and said he, "for all that I have been worth through life I am indebted to the encouraging help of that friend." That man talked thus when he had but little hope of ever rising from his bed of sickness; but he has been spared to be here and speak for himself, and he has told us what he said to myself in his sick chamber. It is a matter of gratification in my own mind to have heard him use the expression that General Cameron was the poor man's friend, and more particularly is it gratifying to all of us here, when we know it is the honest expression of an honest heart.

Well, now, Mr. Mayor, who can fail to recall in his mind many little instances he has heard wherein our guest has extended a like helping hand to other poor men? Is there one here who can truthfully assert that within his knowledge, General Cameron ever said, be ye clothed, or be ye warmed, and yet did not give that which was needful for the poor? Can any one tell me that any deserving person in poverty or ever besought our guest and friend for help without receiving that help? It is true that the greatest compliment that can be paid to him, or that can be paid to any one of us, leaving aside all intellectual pride, is just simply that of "the poor man's friend."

General Cameron has filled many public positions in life. He has been entrusted by the citizens of this Commonwealth with many offices of trust, in all of which he has discharged his duty faithfully. Yet he has been assailed and ruthlessly attacked. What is his crime? Why, Mr. Mayor, is it not a fact undisputed and as old as the hills, that no virtue ever

yet raised its humble head, which calumny did not attempt to hiss to the earth. As in social life so it is in politics. Let a man rise but a step above the herd and a pack of hounds are upon his track to bring him down. Of course in some cases the political opponents or personal enemies of a man are actuated by those high toned motives that lead men to recognize merit wherever it may be; but it has not been the fortune of our friend to be so treated. He has felt the sneer and scorn of his assailants, yet, at the same time, with an endurance that wins our applause and admiration; and he now stands completely vindicated. [Applause.] I believe that is our sentiment, that whatever may have been the motives of the men who started the resolution in Congress, whatever may have been the character of the men who advocated its passage, still in our own midst, where he has lived longest and is understood the best, we must in justice say, he stands acquitted with the assurance of our approbation of his course, with the assurance he must feel himself, and better than all earthly considerations the assurance of an entire acquittal at the hands of the Great Judge of all.

But when that man took possession of the War office, need I repeat the condition of the country? need I repeat the shameful tale: our forts dismantled, our cannon and arms stolen, the treasury depleted, treason in every department; no man knowing in what he could trust his fellow man. Everything was in confusion, and yet out of chaos he brought order. He did what I say, no other man under the same circumstances could have done except he had been raised up in the Providence of God for that particular purpose. We saw the country in that disturbed and distracted condition, everything at sea, with nothing that we could lay our hands upon to claim or call our own, no man whom we could trust; and yet out of all this difficulty, he produced the harmonious order that we see to day pervading our whole country and army. We saw our flag insulted, and men of the south proving themselves to be dead to all the glorious memories of the past as well as the blessings of the present and the hopes of the future, endeavored to separate this Union. But, gentlemen, we are here to-night to feel thankful that at that particular crisis we all throughout the North felt that thing could never come to pass, because we knew and heard it from the hills and valleys of our own State, that the genius of liberty cried out against it. We felt that all the glorious hopes of civilization plead against it; and we knew that christianity frowned upon it, and above all we could not help but recognize the great fact that the physical geography of this country spoke in characters of light as long as the Mississippi and as broad as the Atlantic, that separation should never be. [Great applause.] And it was just at that moment when all these sentiments were caught up, when that cry of liberty was heard, when the hopes of christianity began to stir, that that man made up, with a creative talent,

the grand army of the Potomac, that swore the Union should never be destroyed. To him it is that we are indebted, to a certain extent for the creation of that army of the Potomac and its thousands of soldiers who are now carrying our banner to victory. Well, is there nothing to be proud of in that? Is there nothing now for us, as American citizens, to feel proud of, as we think to ourselves that the day may come when the thistle of Scotland may wither, when the shamrock of Ireland may decay, when the lilly of France may droop, but the stars of America, like the stars of heaven, will shine with undimmed radiance, "amid the crash of matter and the wreck of worlds." [Applause.]

Now, Mr. Mayor, let political theorists and foreign statesmen inquire where the power of this government exists. It does not exist on the statute books. But we know, and this war, proves clearly and conclusively, that it exists in the hearts of the loyal and true men of this country. That is the life of this Union, and this life, like liberty itself, remains concealed until it meets its opposite, and then, when they do meet, it flames forth like angry lightning, to blast and blight all that oppose it. [Applause.] Here, then, in the masses of the people, is our strength. It lies in the strong hands and true hearts of those who are bearing our arms, as it is to them we should look, under the Providence of God, for a vindication of all our rights. Let us now be thankful that we have a government that governs, that we have a Constitution that must and shall be obeyed—if not obeyed when written in parchment, why then obeyed when clad in steel—and which will be obeyed at all hazards and under all consequences; and let traitors know, it is now being written anew in the blood of this nation, at the point of the bayonet. These thoughts, I say, are started in our minds by this occasion; let us remember that the present position of the nation, to a great extent, has been brought about by the agency, the creative talent and endurance of the man to whom we have met here to pay our honor and respect. And when he goes beyond the sea, on the other side of the continent, and looks back here, I do not say that the banners of victory from other States will greet his vision; but I do believe—yes, I hope and pray—that when he stands before the throne of the Czar of Russia he shall be able to say to him in plain Saxon-English: there is no division here; we stand one and indivisible; and no "pent up Utica" contracts Ameri-

ca's powers, but the whole continent is ours.—[Great applause.]

DAVID MUMMA, Esq., then made a few remarks explanatory of the gentlemanly kindness and friendly intercourse for which Gen. Cameron had become proverbial in our midst. In referring to the appointment of that gentleman to a seat in the Cabinet of Mr. Lincoln, Mr. M. stated that that appointment was secured by the friends of Gen. Cameron before he had any intimation of their intention. His wishes were not consulted in the matter, and it was only upon the solicitations of his friends that he was induced to accept the position. In conclusion he expressed the sentiments of all who are acquainted with Gen. Cameron, in a full and emphatic endorsement of his official career, both as a Senator of the United States and at the head of what constituted the most important and responsible department of the government.

ROBT. L. MUENCH, Esq., was the last speaker. After what had been said in regard to the esteem in which General Cameron was held by those present, he considered it a work of supererogation to say one word in behalf of that gentleman. He had merely to say that, as his father's son, he would never forget the friendship of General Cameron. He hoped that the honored guest of the evening would soon return to a happy and prosperous land, to enjoy the renewed friendship and regard of his fellow citizens.

At the conclusion of Mr. Muench's speech, Dr. Bailly proposed three cheers for Gen. Cameron, which were given with enthusiasm. These were followed by three more, as if to confirm the first in their will and sincerity.

The hour being late, Gen. Cameron rose, which seemed to be the signal for the ending of the festivities. The company present then individually took leave of Gen. Cameron, and as he stood at the head of the table, each approached, took him by the hand, uttered and received a kindly word of greeting and parting, and then retired. In these farewells, there was much that was pleasing, as they illustrated how noble friendship can become, when it binds men together in feelings of kindness and reciprocity. The scene was both impressive and eloquent—one that will long be remembered by all who were present and participated.